

MINUTES

Present: Chairman C Clarke, Councillors A Wilson, B Cronk, P Bendall, P Truin, L Collings, Clerk/RFO Mrs J Schofield, new Clerk/RFO Della Massey and 2 members of the public.

1. Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and noted apologies from Vice Chairman E Woods.
2. Declarations of Interest – none received.
3. Resolved that the Minutes of the extraordinary meetings held on the 9th July are a correct record – Minutes circulated prior to meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr R Lindsey provided an updated report on the activities within Suffolk County Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council. New planning proposals from Central Government have been circulated which includes a new proposal on housing quota formulas. Under the new proposal Babergh would see an increase in the housing quota from 300 to 790 per year. The new White Paper, Planning for the Future, introduces “zoning” area's that would expedite planning applications in certain conditions.

At the recent full Council meeting, Cllr Lindsey put forward a motion to place a default limit of 20mph in villages and towns in Suffolk. The motion fell by 48 votes to 20 however this will remain on the agenda.

Suffolk County Council, as the primary consultee for Sizewell C, has opposed the plans submitted by EDF energy for Sizewell C. Although Suffolk County Council are not the decision maker in the application, their opposition will be taken into consideration.

Suffolk are currently in the lowest Tier assessed against the Covid-19 threat however all Councils are prepared to provide crisis services again, should we be placed under increased restrictions. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Suffolk County Council had a £41 million overspend however this funding gap has now been plugged with funds from Central Government.

The Boundary Commission is currently consulting on new divisions (email circulated to Councillors prior to meeting) and everyone is encouraged to respond to this. Brettenham would remain in the Cosford ward which would increase in size but this would not happen until 2025.

A new initiative named “Quiet Lanes” has been established with a budget of £235,000 to improve safety on roads where the National Speed Limit applies but has low levels of car traffic and higher level of cyclists and horses. The fund offers free signage to roads that qualify to promote drivers awareness of road users.

Babergh has met its 5 year commitment for housing and has approved enough for the next 6 years.

Babergh have previously outsourced grass cutting to parks and public areas however are now bringing this service in-house. They are purchasing a ride on mower with grass collecting capabilities and have planned services to promote ecological diversity.

A discussion was held over the benefits of Brettenham having a neighbourhood plan. Councillor Lindsey advised that other Parish Council's were in the process of writing theirs, although their Parishes were larger than Brettenham. Councillors raised concerns about the cost and resource implications of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Brettenham however recognised that having this in place, would be beneficial should a large planning application be submitted in the area. Councillor Lindsey advised that another Parish in the area has commissioned an external company to complete their Neighbourhood Plan.

ACTION: Councillor Lindsey to forward on contact details of the Parish Council and external agency completing this work.

Councillor Lindsey was asked for advice around concerns that have been raised by residents in relation to the Old Buckenham Chase development. Two concerns have been raised, the first concerns Highway Safety as there are a number of large vehicles blocking roads, parking in an unsafe manner and damaging public areas. Councillor Lindsey recommended that Brettenham Parish Council raise this with Babergh Development Control in the first instance, making reference to any conditions that were attached the planning application.

The second concern has been raised by a resident regarding site size. This had already been raised with Babergh planning control who advised that the soil heaps were over the boundary line but do not breach planning conditions as they will be removed once the development is complete.

Additional concerns have been raised that the plot sizes, which are being advertised for purchase, are in breach of the planning agreement as the advertised plot sizes exceed the agreed planning permission. Discussion was held as to who this would be best raised with, as this could be a breach in advertising rules but could also breach planning rules.

ACTION: Clerk/RFO (Della Massey) to check ownership boundaries of land at Old Buckenham Hall and to discuss at future reference.

Agreement to postpone reporting to Babergh at this time, until further information is gathered.

Councillor Lindsey left the meeting

SALC update: Councillor Wilson attended the SALC meeting virtually on the 4th September with a guest speaker from NALC in attendance. NALC put on record their thanks to all councils over their work during Covid-19. Although Covid-19 remains the focus on many council's agenda's, NALC reiterated that devolution was still planned and encouraged councils to monitor their finances as they will be expected to take on more responsibility through devolution. SALC are continuing to offer training and advice and have increased their offering as they are now able to do this online making it more accessible.

Gardening club update: Planting on the village green has now been completed, the tap is in place and the Council were asked for their opinion on planting around the tap. Agreed that the tap does not visually impair the space at present and therefore Councillors were happy to leave this at this time. A question was raised about insulation of the pipes, Councillors were advised that the tap has three stop cocks and will be drained during the winter months

Centre Academy: Councillor Collins gave an update, stating that the school was now re-open with an additional two mobile classrooms to accommodate an increase in pupils. They have protocols in place to manage the Covid-19 threat and to date, have not had any positive cases.

Public Forum Closed

4. To receive Clerks report on matters from previous meeting and to date.

4.1 To provide update on actions from previous meeting

The hand sanitising station was completed and ready for the BVA lunch event. Thanks to Councillor Bendall for his support in ensuring that was completed on time.

Clerk/RFO has not been able to move the CIL money into the savings account due to issues with online bank access. This will be completed before the next meeting.

4.2 CIL Bid Defibrillator application

Funding has now been agreed and Community Heartbeat approached to discuss installation.

4.3 Q2 accounts

These have been completed and signed off by the internal auditor.

4.4 Opening up the playground

Following the work by Councillor Bendall, the playground has now been safely reopened. There are concerns about some of the play equipment (see item 7.1 for discussion)

4.5 To discuss future dates for Parish Council meetings

The next Council meeting is scheduled for November however agreement to move this to the 3rd December. Councillor Collings sends her apologies in advance.

4.6 New clerk/RFO appointed with handover now starting

Della Massey will now be taking over the role of Clerk/RFO for Brettenham Parish Council. All Councillors wished her a warm welcome and look forward to working with her.

5. Planning

5.1 To consider and receive updates on Planning Applications

5.1.1 DC/20/02678 Land At Buggs Lane, Brettenham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 7PD Change of use of agricultural field to grazing for horses and sheep. Erection of 3 stables, tack room and storage barn. Widen existing access. Creation of hard standing area for parking.

5.1.2 DC/20/02837 Householder Application - Erection of a single storey side extension, insertion of new doorway and construction of external staircase to provide access to the storage space over garage. The Limes, The Street, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7QP

5.1.3 DC/20/02684 - Old Buckenham Hall School, Brettenham Park, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PH Full Planning Permission - Installation of 2No external doors and foul water waste pipe

5.1.4 DC/20/02685 - Old Buckenham Hall School, Brettenham Park, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PH Application for Listed Building Consent - Installation of 2No external doors and foul water waste pipe. Internal and external alterations to facilitate reordering between educational use and onsite ancillary staff accommodation.

5.1.5 DC/20/03275 - Old Buckenham Hall School, Brettenham Park, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PH Application for Listed Building Consent - Repair of 2 No. chimneys including part reconstruction, replacement of 2no. Lead valley gutters including alterations to lead bay sizes, removal of existing haunching on dormers and replace with lime haunching on Old Buckenham Hall Mansion. Slate roof repair and installation of structural support to science room roof on the Sewell Building

5.1.6 DC/20/02858 - The Bungalow, Old School Corner, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PA Full Planning Application – Change of use of residential garage and land to Class B1 use for a car mechanical business; Erection of extension to garage for use as workshop

5.1.7 DC/20/03427 - Old Buckenham Hall School, Brettenham Park, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PH Planning Application. Replacement of covered walkway

5.1.8 DC/20/03428 - Old Buckenham Hall School, Brettenham Park, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PH Application for Listed Building Consent. Replacement of covered walkway.

5.1.9 DC/20/03443 Planning Application - Change of use of agricultural land to horse grazing. Erection of a stable block, pack room and hay store, installation of a vehicular access road Location: Land South Of, Buxhall Road, Brettenham, Suffolk

5.1.10 DC/20/03206 - Popples, Bury Road, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PN Householder application - Internal and external works associated with the internal relocation of the kitchen, new plumbing and drainage, including a new soakaway

5.1.11 DC/20/03206 - Popples, Bury Road, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PN Householder application - Application for Listed Building Consent - Internal and external works associated with the internal relocation of the kitchen, new plumbing and drainage, including a new soakaway

Councillor Bendall provided an update on the planning applications which have either been supported or no objections raised.

Discussion was held around application DC/20/02858 - The Bungalow, Old School Corner, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PA Full Planning Application – Change of use of residential garage and land to Class B1 use for a car mechanical business; Erection of extension to garage for use as workshop. Councillor Bendall advised that the resident at the property was a self-employed car mechanic and has made the application to work from home. Councillor Bendall sought the views of the local neighbours who were all in support of the application. The decision remains outstanding and some conditions have been attached.

5.2 To discuss concerns about damage on public highways due to development and delivery vehicles at Old Buckenham Chase. This was discussed earlier within the meeting during the Public Forum. Councillor Bendall advised that he had met the site manager who acknowledged the complaints and remedied damage immediately. Unfortunately within a day the area was damaged again. Photos have been taken and the concerns have been reported to the site manager. Hazard tape has been placed around the area and concrete blocks have been placed to prevent vehicles damaging the edges further.

Councillor Bendall discussed an additional concern raised by residents about the work being undertaken between Poplar Farm and Francis House. This was raised with Babergh planning enforcement in August however no further action was taken as the site visit focussed on the fence and gate which was not in breach of planning rules. Since this time, there has been hardcore placed into the driveway and windows, frames and timber have all been placed in the area. No construction has taken place however materials are present. Enforcement to be made aware if the situation changes.

6. Correspondence

6.1 To discuss items of correspondence

6.1.1 Consultation request from Suffolk County Council re: division boundaries/names

This was discussed in the Public Forum as it was raised by Councillor Lindsey. See above for details.

6.1.2 Suffolk County Council launch scheme to fund the installation of electric car charging points in rural areas

A fund of £330,000 has been made available to install electric vehicle charging points in rural areas. The fund covers the installation and purchase costs with minimal or no cost to the Parish Councils. Vice Chairman Emily Woods sent in her views that she would support an application to this fund.

Discussion was held re: the placement of the charging point, the impact installation would have and how the electricity is supplied.

ACTION: Councillor Woods to discuss this with the BVA Chair who is responsible for the Village Hall where the charging point is likely to be installed, and investigate the process for application and installation.

6.2 To discuss any further items of correspondence received since Agenda prepared.

A resident has raised concerns about the development of Old Buckenham Chase (see discussion in Public Forum for information and actions)

7. Playing Field/Parking/Health and Safety

7.1 To agree repair plan for play area swing

The swing has been reported as unsafe, the plate needs replacing at the apex of right hand of legs and the bar needs lifting to replace. Graham Moulding has agreed to remedy the issue. The swing has been wrapped in hazard tape and signs have been placed around to advise users it is unsafe. Thanks were extended to Graham Moulding and Councillor Bendall for their support in this area.

7.2 To receive reports of any other Health and Safety issues

No other reports received.

8. Highways and Footpaths discussion

8.1 Signposts Old School Corner, T junction Buxhall Road, T junction Lower Farm Road.

Both signposts are in states in disrepair and have been reported. The Council have responded to advise they will address this when resources are available.

8.2 Village Green, Mill Corner

Discussed as part of concerns re: Old Buckenham Chase development. See above.

9. Finance

9.1 Clerk to provide current financial report – completed. No questions raised.

9.2 To consider and authorise payments detailed on finance report – completed – payments authorised

10. AOB and items for consideration of inclusion on next Agenda.

Councillor Collings would like to discuss a proposal to change planning policy to encourage new buildings to have swift and bat bricks as part of their planning condition.

Meeting closed at 20.50

Della Massey Clerk/RFO Email: brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Minutes circulated to:

Chairman

Mr Chris Clarke*

Vice-Chairman

Ms Emily Woods*

Councillor and Suffolk Passenger Transport Representative

Mr Peter Truin*

Councillor and Chairman of Planning Committee

Mr Paul Bendall*

Councillor and SALC Representative

Mrs Alyson Wilson*

Councillors

Ms Beverley Cronk*

Mrs Lindsey Collings*